

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

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First Inmate Transfers to Out-of-State Facilities Begins Nov. 3

In response to Governor Schwarzenegger's emergency proclamation to relieve prison overcrowding, the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation began transferring inmates to out-of-state correctional facilities on Nov. 3, when 80 inmates were moved from California to the West Tennessee Detention Facility in Mason, Tennessee.

The inmates, who volunteered for the transfer, were transported by a secured, chartered airplane from Meadows Field in Bakersfield to Tennessee. They are the first of approximately 2,200 California inmates expected to be transferred out of state by mid-2007.

In late October 2006, following the Governor's emergency proclamations, CDCR finalized two contracts to provide temporary housing for inmates as a short-term relief to California's overcrowded prison conditions. The contracts are with the Correctional Corporation of America (CCA) in Nashville, Tennessee and the GEO Group Inc. of Florida. Both contracts are for three years, with mutual options for two-year extensions.

The CCA is expected to house up to 1,000 medium-custody inmates at four facilities including the West Tennessee Detention Facility. The total annual cost of that contract is approximately \$22.9 million. The total cost of the GEO group contract will be about \$28.7 million per year. It is expected that GEO will house as many as 1,260 medium-custody inmates in their facilities.

Before awarding the contracts, CDCR inspected the facilities to ensure they meet safety and security standards, and that they will provide proper medical care and rehabilitative programs for inmates. The facilities are accredited by the American Correctional Association, and both companies are required by contract to house the inmates in accordance with CDCR procedures and California law.

With more than 173,000 inmates, overcrowding in California prisons is so severe that CDCR has been forced to house more than 17,000 inmates in areas not designed for living spaces, including gyms and dayrooms.

The cost of housing inmates in the CCA and GEO out-of state facilities is approximately \$63 a day, compared to the \$71 a day that CDCR pays to house state prison inmates at local jails in California. The cost of inmate housing in the current California prison system is more than \$35,587 a year.

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For more information on the out of state transfers and other efforts to resolve California's prison crisis, please visit the CDCR web site at www.cdcr.ca.gov.